Simplification of baggage clearance procedures at international airports

1224. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Excise and Customs Board has recently taken a decision to simplify baggage clearance procedures at the international airports in the country in order to ensure speedy disposal of passengers;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether more X-ray machines have been installed to scan the baggage etc.; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The scale of checks at green channel has been considerably reduced. Customs officers have been told to be polite and prompt in clearance of passengers. Separate Customs Counters have been opened to facilitate clearance of senior citizens, women, children, handicapped persons and Non Resident Indians.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) In view of reply to part (c), does not arise.

New drug for treatment of T.B.

1225. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scientists at the Institute of Microbial Technology, Chandigarh have developed a more potent form of refamycin, a drug for treatment of T.B. for more effective and quick treatment;

(b) whether Government have tested the new drug for T.B. treatment;

(c) whether Government propose to make such drug available in all Government Hospitals in the country; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The new preparation has first to be evaluated for toxicity and efficacy before it can be released for treatment of patients.

(c) and (d) The issue regarding making the drug available in Government Hospitals will be taken up after its safety and efficacy is established.

Poisoning of peacocks in M.P.

1226. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a news-item captioned "Over 250 peacocks poisoned in M.P." appearing in the Hindustan Times of the 8th August, 1991;

(b) if so, whether the Central Government have contemplated any action in this regard under the Wild Life (Protection) Act;

(c) whether the National bird has been deliberately poisoned in the State to smuggle its wings;

(d) what are the facts and details of the investigations made in this regard, so far; and